

VOTE - Voter Outreach Through Education Washington Secretary of State

WASHINGTON STATE CURRICULUM GRADES 8-12

TEACHER: LESSON 4

THEME: I WANT TO REGISTER; NOW WHAT?

Student Lesson Four is designed for several different purposes:

1. To make the students comfortable with the voter registration process and the options available for voting;
2. To familiarize students with the wealth of assistance and information available to them for both voter registration and voting;
3. To bring students into contact with the form they will use;
4. To increase the likelihood that at age 18 the students will choose to exercise their elective franchise, the right and power to vote.

ACTIVITY:

The Student Lesson is formed as a self-guided tutorial search through the Mail-In Voter Registration Form. You will need to give a copy of Student Lesson "I WANT TO REGISTER; NOW WHAT?" to each student. The students are directed to find the accompanying voter registration form for this activity (www.vote.wa.gov, click on "Voter Registration," then "Mail-In Voter Registration Form." You will have a choice of the language you want to use.

You have the option of downloading and printing a hard copy of the 2-page form for each student ahead of time. It is desirable that they navigate the web to find the form so they become comfortable with the process.

You must decide if this lesson is to be done solo or in tandem with other students. The optimum for self-tutorials of this nature is probably two students working in collaboration with each other. Direct the students to write their answers on the lesson pages as they proceed through the questions.

Regarding question #4: for more information on the definition of "legal residence," one can go to www.vote.wa.gov, click on the "Voter Information Guide," then pick "Frequently asked Questions about Residency and Voting Rights." This page also addresses questions about being a traveler, a student, or in the military away from home.

A special note to emphasize with students: It used to be that registering to vote was your ticket into the pool of potential jurors, so it kept some eligible voters from registering so they would avoid jury duty. This is no longer the case and not a viable reason not to register to vote. The Legislature changed the law several years ago. Now, not only is the jury pool drawn from the voter registration database, but also from driver license and ID card applications with the State Department of Licensing. More information on this can be found, for example on the Thurston County web site at www.co.thurston.wa.us/superior/welcome.html, and similarly on many other counties' web sites.

ANSWERS:

You might consider asking students to correct their own papers first without this key to determine how well they learned the material.

1. 448-4881 / 422-8683 TDD/TTY for the hearing or speech impaired
2. Voter Hotline
3. C) phone, D) email, or E) in person
4. YES
5. NO
6. A) United States, B) State of Washington
7. 30
8. E
9. 18
10. Ballot
11. On-going
12. A) 30; B) 15
13. A) submit a new voter registration form, B) transfer of registration, C) 30
14. "Voter Registration"
15. B
16. 90
17. A
18. E

19. Election day
20. "Ongoing Absentee Request"
21. The answer depends on which county the student lives in.
22. Driver license

You might wish to offer a special incentive or prize for those who achieve the status of "Let Freedom Ring-Vote!" in this activity. Maybe you could create a certificate that affirms their success, such as "Honorary Citizen-Voter."